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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/630,067

07/30/2003

William J. Thomas

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FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

CHEN, ALAN S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2182

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/23/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/630,067

Applicant(s)

THOMAS, WILLIAM J.

Examiner

Alan S. Chen

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2182

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 June 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 19-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 06/06/2007 with respect to claims 19-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102 and 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over European Patent No. 1239367 to Borgatti et al (*Borgatti*).
5. Per claim 19, Borgatti discloses a method (*Paragraph 37 discloses one of the methods of Borgatti*) of dynamically maintaining configuration information (*Paragraph 32 discloses real-time reconfiguration of peripheral expansion device*) of a replaceable

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electronic module (*Fig. 1, element 8 and Fig. 2 are the replaceable electronic modules*); comprising: storing configuration information in a persistent memory on the replaceable electronic module (*Fig. 17 stores information on how to configure the peripheral device, element 15, for various different functions*), wherein the stored configuration information corresponds to an initial function assigned to the replaceable electronic module based at least in part on a first computer device to which the replaceable electronic module is logically connected (*Fig. 1, element 1 is the first computer device; Paragraph 37, lines 20+ discloses the activation of a functions by the host; the 'initial function' therefore is what the first computer initiated; note Paragraph 37 clearly indicates the ability to add and change functions of the peripheral device*); disconnecting the replaceable electronic module from the first computer device (*it is obvious that Borgatti intends to have the detachable module shown in Fig. 2 to be removed*); logically connecting the replaceable electronic module to a second computer device (*the removable module shown in Fig. 2 is adaptable to any other portable computer that has appropriate hardware and software facilities as the computer shown in Fig. 3*); detecting that the replaceable electronic module is assigned a different function in response to the replaceable electronic module being logically connected to the second computer device (*Paragraph 37, different configurations can be activated on the second computer than the first computer*); sending previously stored configuration information to the replaceable electronic module (*Paragraph 37 further discloses the host device activating the functionality on the peripheral device, therefore configuration information that was sent/activated on by the host*), wherein the previously stored configuration information corresponds to the

assigned different function (*Fig. 2, a different functionality is used in the second computer than the first; for instance, the first computer only utilized the voice synthesis functionality; now, the second computer utilizes the camera*); and storing the configuration information sent to the replaceable electronic module in the persistent memory on the replaceable electronic module (*Paragraph 34, the non-volatile memory storing the configuration information can be expanded; Paragraph 37, the drivers, e.g., configuration information are activated based on desired function*), wherein the stored configuration information sent to the replaceable electronic module replaces at least a portion of the stored configuration information corresponding to the initial function (*inactive functions are turned off, FPGA, element 18 is reprogrammed replaced with what is active*), and wherein the configuration information enables the replaceable electronic module to utilize a previously unenabled hardware capability (*again, previously, one of the functions, e.g., face recognition, may not have been activated, and now it has been activated on the second computer*).

6. Per claim 20, Borgatti discloses claim 19, Borgatti further discloses the second computer device is a disk drive (*Fig. 1 and Fig. 3, PDA memory is not limited to disk form*).

7. Per claim 21, Borgatti discloses claim 20, Borgatti further discloses the configuration information sent to the replaceable electronic module enables the replaceable electronic module to execute software stored on the disk drive (*Paragraph 37, user interfaces on the host computer are executable once the drivers are enabled for the peripheral device, such that the UI control the peripheral device*).

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 1-18 are allowed for reasons stated in the previous Office Action.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alan S. Chen whose telephone number is 571-272-4143. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim N. Huynh can be reached on 571-272-4147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

ASC
07/19/2007

Alan S. Allen
7/19/07